

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS AND ERNEST
F. COE VISITOR CENTER, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

OCTOBER 21, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 136]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 136) to amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS AND ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Marjory Stoneman Douglas, through her book, “The Everglades: River of Grass” (1947), defined the Everglades for the American people and for the world. Her book was the first to stimulate widespread understanding of the Everglades ecosystem and ultimately served to awaken the desire to restore its health.

(2) In her 107th year, Mrs. Douglas is the sole surviving member of the original group of people who devoted decades of selfless effort to establish Everglades National Park.

(3) When the water supply and ecology of the Everglades, both within and outside the park, became threatened by drainage and development, Mrs. Douglas dedicated the balance of her life to the defense of the Everglades through extraordinary personal effort and by inspiring countless other people to take action.

(4) For these and many other accomplishments, the President awarded Mrs. Douglas the Medal of Freedom on Earth Day, 1994.

(5) Ernest F. Coe (1886–1951) was a leader in the creation of Everglades National Park. He organized the Tropic Everglades National Park Association in 1928 and was widely regarded as the “Father of Everglades National Park”.

(6) As a landscape architect, Mr. Coe’s vision for the park recognized the need to protect south Florida’s diverse wildlife and their habitats for future generations. His original park proposal included lands and waters subsequently protected within Everglades National Park, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

(7) Mr. Coe’s leadership, selfless devotion, and commitment to achieving this vision culminated in the authorization of Everglades National Park by Congress in 1934. Afterwards, Mr. Coe fought tirelessly and lobbied strenuously for establishment of the park, finally realizing his dream in 1947. He accomplished much of this work at his own expense, which dramatically demonstrated his commitment to establishment of the park.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to commemorate the vision, leadership, and enduring contributions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Ernest F. Coe in the protection of the Everglades and the establishment of Everglades National Park.

(c) MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS.—

(1) REDESIGNATION.—Section 401(3) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–625; 92 Stat. 3490; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by striking out “to be known as the Everglades Wilderness” and inserting “to be known as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness to commemorate the vision and leadership shown by Mrs. Douglas in the protection of the Everglades and the establishment of Everglades National Park”.

(2) NOTICE OF REDESIGNATION.—As part of the redesignation of the “Everglades Wilderness” as the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness” under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall provide such notification of the redesignation by signs, materials, maps, markers, interpretive programs, and other means (including changes in existing signs, materials, maps, and markers) as will adequately inform the public of the redesignation of the wilderness area and the reasons therefor.

(3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the “Everglades Wilderness” shall be considered to be a reference to “Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness”.

(d) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—Section 103 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r–7) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—Upon completion of construction of the main visitor center facility at the headquarters of Everglades National Park, the Secretary of the Interior shall designate the visitor center facility as ‘The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center’ to commemorate the vision and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the establishment and protection of Everglades National Park.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by striking “VISITOR CENTER” and inserting “MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS VISITOR CENTER”.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subsection (c)(2) of such section is amended by striking “personally-owned” and inserting “personally-owned”.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 136 is to amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 136 designates approximately 1.3 million acres of existing wilderness within the Everglades National Park as the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness,” and would name a visitor center in Everglades City after Mrs. Douglas as well as name the recently

completed main visitor center at Everglades National Park headquarters as "The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center."

Everglades National Park was dedicated in 1947 after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed legislation in 1934, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to select an area for the site of the park. Everglades National Park consists of 1.5 million acres and is known for its diverse wildlife and unusual wetland habitat. The Everglades' wilderness is the largest subtropical wilderness in the continental United States. The Everglades National Park has been designated a World Heritage Site, a Wetland of International Significance, and a Biosphere Reserve in recognition of its significance.

The two individuals commemorated in H.R. 136 were instrumental in the events leading to the establishment of the Everglades National Park. In the years following the creation of the park, Mrs. Douglas and Mr. Coe continued to make significant contributions to the protection of the Everglades.

In 1947, Mrs. Douglas published her landmark book on Florida's largest wetland ecosystem, "The Everglades: River of Grass," which increased public awareness about the Everglades and resulted in national support for the establishment of Everglades National Park. Mrs. Douglas, who celebrated her 107th birthday on April 6, 1997, has dedicated her entire life to the Everglades. In 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Medal of Freedom (America's highest civilian honor) in recognition of her achievements on behalf of the Everglades.

In 1928, Mr. Coe organized the Tropical Everglades National Park Association, an organization dedicated solely to the creation of a south Florida national park, and served as its first executive secretary. Mr. Coe, a landscape architect, worked tirelessly for the next two decades to assure establishment of the Everglades National Park. His outstanding contributions earned him the recognition as "The Father of Everglades National Park." Mr. Coe died in 1951.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 136 was introduced on January 7, 1997, by Congressman Peter Deutsch (D-FL) and Congressman Porter J. Goss (R-FL). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. On April 10, 1997, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 136, where testimony was unanimous in support of the bill. The Administration strongly supports passage of H.R. 136. On July 31, 1997, the Subcommittee met to mark up H.R. 136. An amendment to indicate that Mrs. Douglas was now 107 years old was offered by Congressman James V. Hansen (R-UT), and adopted by voice vote. The bill was then ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee by voice vote. On September 10, 1997, the Full Resources Committee met to consider H.R. 136. No further amendments were offered, and the bill, as amended, was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(1)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8, and article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact H.R. 136.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 136. However, clause 7(d) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 136 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 136.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 136 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 18, 1997.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 136, a bill to amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades

National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 136—A bill to amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center

H.R. 136 would redesignate the Everglades Wilderness in Florida as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness. The Secretary of the Interior would be required to notify the public of the change by creating or modifying signs, maps, and other materials. The legislation also would name the new visitor facility at the Everglades National Park the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

CBO estimates that the cost to the federal government of implementing H.R. 136—primarily by revising existing signs and other materials—would be negligible. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 136 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

H.R. 136 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 401 OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION ACT OF 1978

DESIGNATION OF AREAS

SEC. 401. The following lands are hereby designated as wilderness in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), and shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act:

(1) * * *

* * * * *

(3) Everglades National Park, Florida, wilderness comprising approximately one million two hundred and ninety-six thousand five hundred acres and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately eighty-one thousand nine hundred acres, depicted on a map entitled “Wilderness Plan, Everglades National Park, Florida”, numbered 160–20,011 and dated June 1974, **[to be known as the Everglades Wilderness]** *to be known as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness to commemorate the vision and leadership shown by Mrs. Douglas in the protection of the Everglades and the establishment of Everglades National Park.*

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SECTION 103 OF THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK PROTECTION AND EXPANSION ACT OF 1989

SEC. 103. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) * * *

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(c) PROTECTION OF FLORA AND FAUNA.—The park shall be closed to the operation of airboats—

(1) except as provided in subsection (d); and

(2) except that within a limited capacity and on designated routes within the addition, owners of record of registered airboats in use within the addition as of January 1, 1989, shall be issued nontransferable, nonrenewable permits, for their individual lifetimes, to operate **[personnally-owned]** *personally-owned* airboats for noncommercial use in accordance with rules prescribed by the Secretary to determine ownership and registration, establish uses, permit conditions, and penalties, and to protect the biological resources of the area.

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(e) **[VISITOR CENTER]** *MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS VISITOR CENTER.*—The Secretary is authorized and directed to expedite the construction of the visitor center facility at Everglades City, Florida, as described in the Development Concept Plan, Gulf Coast, dated February 1989, and upon construction shall designate the visitor center facility as “The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Center” in commemoration of the vision and leadership shown by Mrs. Douglas in the protection of the Everglades and Everglades National Park.

(f) *ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.*—Upon completion of construction of the main visitor center facility at the headquarters of Everglades National Park, the Secretary of the Interior shall designate the visitor center facility as “The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center” to commemorate the vision and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the establishment and protection of Everglades National Park.